

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 290355Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5256

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, CH, KN, KS

SUBJECT: BHUTTO VISIT TO NORTH KOREA AND CHINA;

PAK-KOREAN RELATIONS

1. REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING HERE FOR PAST
TEN DAYS ABOUT POSSIBLE BHUTTO VISIT TO CHINA AND
NORTH KOREA IN MAY SURFACED IN PRESS THIS MORNING APRIL 28
WHEN URDU DAILY JANG RAN ARTICLE STATING THAT PM WOULD GO
TO NORTH KOREA AND PRC IN THAT ORDER MAY 22-30. ROK
CONSUL GENERAL MADE BEELINE TO MFA WHERE HE WAS TOLD
THAT CHINESE VISIT WAS NOT FINALLY SET BUT WOULD PROBABLY
TAKE PLACE LAST WEEK MAY - FIRST WEEK JUNE. AS FOR
NORTH KOREA, MFA OFFICERS RECALLED LONG-STANDING DPRK
INVITATION, SAID NO DETAILED PROPOSAL HAD BEEN RECEIVED
RECENTLY FROM PYONGYANG, BUT "COULD NOT ELIMINATE
POSSIBILITY" THAT PM WOULD GO THERE. JAPANESE EMBASSY
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SOURCES TOLD ROKS THAT THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY WELL-INFORMED

PAKISTAN TIMES CORRESPONDENT H.K. BURKI THAT BHUTTO
WOULD GO TO NORTH KOREA IF HE WENT TO CHINA.

2. ROKS HERE HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THEIR SATISFACTION
WITH RECEPTION GOP GAVE TO ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER
KIM CHUNG-TAE AND ASIA BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR DURING
VISIT TO PAKISTAN APRIL 11-14. VISIT, SCHEDULED AT
LAST MINUTE FOLLOWING SCRUBBING OF STOP AT NEW DELHI
AND BILLED AS HIGHLY INFORMAL, INCLUDED WHAT ROK
CONSULATE GENERAL DESCRIBED AS VERY WARM SESSIONS WITH
MFA ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARIES SHAHNAWAZ AND NAIK
AND DIRECTOR GENERAL (EAST ASIA) SHAHARYAR KHAN. ROKS
WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, IN ARRANGING A MEETING
WITH
FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI. EMBASSY WAS NOT
ASKED FOR ANY ASSISTANCE BY ROK CONSULATE GENERAL
DURING VISIT, AND AT SOCIAL FUNCTION CONSUL GENERAL HAD
HONORING VISITORS GUEST LIST WAS WISELY DESIGNED TO
DEMONSTRATE TO PAKS TIES ROK ENJOYS WITH OTHER SOUTH
ASIAN COUNTRIES, RATHER THAN WELL-KNOWN US CONNECTION.

3. ACCORDING TO ROK SOURCES, MEETINGS AT MFA FOCUSED
ON KOREAN QUESTION AT UN AND LONG-STANDING ISSUE OF
PAK-ROK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. ON UN, MFA OFFICIALS
TOLD ROKS THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT NORTH KOREAN
POSITION EXCLUDING ROK FROM CONFERENCE OF CONCERNED
PARTIES AND COULD NOT AGREE THAT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT
COULD BE SCRAPPED WITHOUT ANYTHING TO TAKE ITS PLACE.
THEY INDICATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BASIC CHANGE IN
GOP POSITION IN 31ST UNGA, WHICH ROKS TOOK TO MEAN THAT
PAKS WOULD AGAIN ABSTAIN ON BOTH CONTENDING RESOLUTIONS
IF THIS YEAR'S SCENARIO IS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF 1974 AND
1975.

4. DISCUSSING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MFA OFFICIALS
ADMITTED THAT IT WAS VIEW AT THEIR LEVEL THAT PRESENT
SITUATION IS ILLOGICAL AND IRRATIONAL AND THAT TIME
HAD COME TO CONSIDER MORE SERIOUSLY STATUS OF TIES.
THEY TOLD ROKS THAT THEY WOULD AGAIN PUT DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS ISSUE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER
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BHUTTO. THEY EXPLAINED THAT PRESENT GOP POSITION
STEMMED FROM ITS CLOSE TIES WITH PRC AND THE MILITARY
ARMAMENT SUPPORT IT HAD RECEIVED FROM THE NORTH KOREANS
IN 1971. ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ TOLD ROKS THAT
HE SAW NO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN THE STATUS QUO
("IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF NAME") BUT FORECAST THAT
SOONER OR LATER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD COME.
BYROADE

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